



Directorate of Partnerships
International

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GUIDE

WELCOME TO ULCO

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DEAR

students



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Welcome to ULCO !

We are delighted to welcome you to the Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale (ULCO) and to include you among the 1,500 international students from 75 different nationalities who have selected ULCO for their academic journey.

ULCO is a human-scale institution that prioritizes international openness and upholds the values of humanism along with the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

By choosing ULCO, you are joining a multidisciplinary, youthful, and dynamic university that is deeply connected to its region and firmly oriented towards international engagement. The university is dedicated to a continuous improvement process in supporting international students throughout their academic journey.

In this guide, you will discover all the advice and information necessary for a successful integration into ULCO and for settling into our region. Please be assured that the International Relations Department (DRI) will always be available to assist you.

We wish you a pleasant stay in our beautiful region and a rewarding and successful academic experience at our institution.

Edmond ABI AAD
President

Rachid AMARA
Vice President of
International Relations

1

YOU HAVE BEEN ADMITTED

- Finalize your admission
- Apply for your visa
- Plan your budget
- Start looking for housing
- Learn more about health insurance coverage.

2

JUST ARRIVED

- How to reach ULCO and navigate the area
- Get to know your new city and how to get around

3

PRIMARY STEPS

- Pay the CVEC (Student Life and Campus Contribution)
- Validate the long-term visa.
- Open a bank account.
- Get connected : access the internet and digital tools

4

DISCOVER ULCO

- Get to know your new university
- Support from the International Relations Department (DRI)
- Digital tools & online services
- Improve your French - Language support
- Career support & entrepreneurship
- And then what? Let's stay connected

A large group of diverse people, including men and women of various ages and ethnicities, are posing for a group photo outdoors. They are all smiling and many have their arms raised in celebration. They are standing on a paved area, possibly a promenade or harbor walk. In the background, several tall sailboat masts are visible against a clear sky. The overall tone of the image is celebratory and positive.

CONGRATULATIONS!

1

YOU HAVE BEEN ADMITTED



1 YOU'VE BEEN ADMITTED



ULCO is located along the English Channel and North Sea coast, right in the heart of three vibrant port cities: Boulogne-sur-Mer, Calais, and Dunkirk, as well as in SaintOmer, further inland.

Situated in the Hauts-de-France region, at the gateway to Northern Europe and just 200 kilometers from Paris, Brussels, and London, ULCO benefits from a prime geographical location.

It is essential to carefully prepare your file before arriving in France and to complete your university registration.



**Documents to be included
in the registration file**



Applying for a visa

Except for residents of the European Economic Area, Monaco, Andorra, and Switzerland, you will need a visa to enter and study in France.

If you come from a country where the "Études en France" procedure does not exist, please check the website of the French embassy in your country of residence to follow the student visa application process.

The processing time varies depending on the country and the time of year, but usually takes several weeks. It is therefore important to start your application well in advance

If you are from a country where the "Études en France" procedure does exist, please consult the Campus France website for guidance with your application process.



1 Y O U ' V E B E E N A D M I T T E D

Organize your financial plan

To assist you in preparing your budget, here is a summary of the average monthly budget you require (for guidance only) :

- **Accommodation €450**
- **Meals €300**
- **Transport €50 (the bus is free in Dunkirk and Calais)**
- **Personal expenses / Leisure: €100**

Keep in mind that there are additional initial costs to consider, such as university registration fees, the CVEC contribution, rental deposits, etc.

Also, be sure to check the tuition fees for your specific program, as these can vary depending on several factors. You can find this information on the university's website.

LEARN MORE 

**Student Life and Campus Contribution (CVEC)**

Every student enrolling in initial higher education studies must provide proof of payment or exemption for the Student Life and Campus Contribution (CVEC) before registering. The CVEC helps fund a wide range of initiatives aimed at improving student life on campus.

How to know if you're eligible for a scholarship to help fund studies in France?

Directories of funding opportunities



1 YOU'VE BEEN ADMITTED

Look for lodging

To guarantee that you discover appropriate accommodation, it is advisable to begin your search in advance. Here is some helpful information to assist you in examining the various options that are available.



étudiant.gouv.fr

Votre vie étudiante au quotidien

With Visale, rent with peace of mind

If you're between 18 and 30 years old, Visale can act as a guarantor for your rental – a helpful solution if you don't have a guarantor in France. Learn more and apply online through the official Visale platform.



Family Allowance Fund (CAF)

Attention! Beginning July 1, 2026, to apply for personal housing assistance (APL, ALF, or ALS) from the Family Allowance Fund (CAF), you must meet the following criteria:

- either a CROUS scholarship awarded on the basis of social criteria
- either a citizen of a country within the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA), or Switzerland

This measure will be delineated by an implementing decree.

Here are a few recommendations for housing options in urban areas.

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER

CALAIS

DUNKERQUE

SAINT-OMER



1 YOU'VE BEEN ADMITTED

Understanding Health Coverage in France

Health insurance coverage is mandatory for stays exceeding 3 months in France.

Students from the EU, EEA or Switzerland

Before you arrive, request your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which has to be valid for the entire duration of your stay.

This card is required and ensures you are covered by your home country's health insurance during your studies

Students from Québec

You must obtain a certificate from the Régie de l'Assurance Maladie du Québec (RAMQ) before coming to France. This is the only recognized process to benefit from health coverage as a Quebec student.

Students from other countries

After enrolling at ULCO, you'll need to register for the French national health insurance (Sécurité Sociale). This step is essential to access healthcare services during your stay. Registration is done online via the official platform: <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr>



The student health service

All students have access to free on-campus health services in: Boulogne-sur-Mer · Calais · Dunkerque · Saint-Omer

What's available :

- preventive healthcare consultations nurse appointment
- emergency contraception,
- support for students with disabilities (accommodations for exams or courses)
- health check-ups, vaccinations, and assistance for international students



CONTACT
SSE Secretariat
+33(0)3 28 23 71 61
santecampus@univ-littoral.fr



2

JUST ARRIVED



2 . J U S T A R R I V E D

How to reach ULCO and navigate the area

Located in a strategic region of northern France, ULCO is easily accessible from major cities in France and abroad.



Traveling to ULCO by train

From Paris-Orly Airport : Take the Orlyval shuttle to Antony station, then transfer to RER B towards Gare du Nord (~35 min).

From Paris-CDG Airport (Roissy) : Take the shuttle to the RER B station (Charles de Gaulle 2 TGV), direction Gare du Nord (~€15). Note: Some TGV trains depart directly from CDG Airport to ULCO cities via Lille.

From Gare du Nord (Paris) : Take the TGV to Lille, then a regional train to your campus. (~1h30/2h)

From Brussels Airport : Regular shuttles connect the airport to Brussels Central Station. From there, take a train to Lille.

From London : Take the Eurostar to Lille. Budget around €160 one-way or €300 return.

From Lille Station (regional train fares) :

- Lille → Dunkerque: ~€15
- Lille → Calais: ~€20
- Lille → Boulogne-sur-Mer: ~€25
- Lille → Saint-Omer: ~€15

Reaching ULCO by car

Paris → Dunkirk : About 300 km via the A1 and A25. Toll : €20.

Paris → Calais: About 295 km via the A1 and A26. Toll : €25

Paris → Saint-Omer: About 260 km via the A1 and A26. Toll : €20

Paris → Boulogne-sur-Mer: About 280 km via the A16. Toll : €25

Urban public transportation



2 . J U S T A R R I V E D

Finding your way in the city.

Boulogne-sur-Mer train station: 3 Boulevard Voltaire, 62200

University Library (BULCO): Place Henri Heine, 62200

CAF (Family Allowance Fund): 84 Boulevard Chanzy, Building A, 62200

Health Insurance Office (CPAM): 47 Boulevard Auguste Mariette, 62200

City Hall: 7 Place Godefroy de Bouillon, 62200

Sub-Prefecture: 131 Grande Rue, 62200

Calais train station: 46 Avenue Wilson, 62100
BULCO : Mi-Voix University Centre, 190 Rue Ferdinand Buisson, 62100

CAF : 6 D Quai de la Gendarmerie, 62100

CPAM: 33 Rue Descartes, 62100

City Hall: Place du Soldat Inconnu, 62100

Sub-Prefecture: 9 Esplanade Jacques Vendroux, 62100



Dunkirk train station: Place de la Gare, 59140

BULCO : 55 Avenue de l'Université, 59140

CAF: 12 Rue de Paris, 59140

CPAM: 2 Batellerie Street, 59140

City Hall: Place Charles Valentin, 59140

Sub-prefecture: 27 Rue Thiers, 59140

Saint-Omer Train Station: 62500 Saint-Omer

BULCO : Avenue Descartes, 62219

CAF : 7-11 Rue Saint-Sépulcre, 62500

CPAM: 3 Passage du Château, 62500

City Hall: 16 Rue Saint-Sépulcre, 62500

Sub-Prefecture: 41 Rue Saint-Bertin, 62500





3 PRIMARY STEPS

3 . M A I N

S T E P S

Fulfilling the CVEC Requirement

Before completing your university enrollment, you must provide proof of payment for the CVEC.

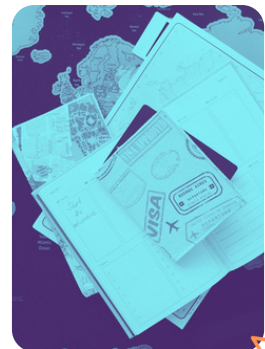
The Contribution to Student and Campus Life (CVEC) helps fund student services such as healthcare, sports, cultural activities, and student initiatives

**Validating your long-stay visa**

You must validate your long-stay visa online within three months of your arrival in France.

If you hold a “minor enrolled in school” visa, please contact ULCO’s International Relations Department to find out the specific procedure to follow.

Important : if you plan to renew your resident permit, you must submit your request online within the four months prior to its expiration (or you can be taxed €180).



Note : Algerian students must follow a specific procedure to obtain a residence permit.

Opening a Bank Account

Opening a bank account in France is highly recommended, as it will simplify many administrative and financial tasks during your stay.

Typically, you’ll need the following documents:

- A valid ID (identity card or passport)
- Proof of address in your name (such as a rental contract, university residence certificate, utility bill, etc.)
- A student card (optional, but may give access to student discounts)

Please note: A temporary housing agreement is not usually accepted. In most cases, the rental contract must include your name.

Getting Internet Access

Once you have signed your rental agreement and opened a bank account, you can subscribe to a monthly internet plan from one of the service providers in France.

The university also offers free Wi-Fi access on campus. You can log in using your ULCO student credentials.



4

DISCOVER ULCO

4 . DISCOVER ULCO

Numbers**STUDENTS 10 400****INTERNATIONALS STUDENTS 1 200****ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS 12****RESEARCH CENTERS & INSTITUTES 3****RESEARCH UNITS 14****DOCTORAL SCHOOLS 2****RESEARCHERS 325****CAMPUSES 4****PHD STUDENTS 198****FACULTY MEMBERS 540****STAFF MEMBERS 500**The International Relations Department (DRI) dedicated to supporting international students - the team**Rachid AMARA****Vice-President for International Relations**
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myriam.lemaire@univ-littoral.fr**Myriam COURCO****Naïma CHIQUI****Reception Desk & International Student Support - Dunkirk**
incoming.dk@univ-littoral.fr**Events & International Student Support - Boulgne-sur-mer & Calais**
incoming.bl@univ-littoral.fr**Maxime BECQUET****Carole HAYNAU****International Agreements and Staff Mobility**
mobility.staff-phd@univ-littoral.fr
international.agreements@univ-littoral.fr**Outgoing Student Mobility - Administrative Coordinator**
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elise.rohart@univ-littoral.fr**Funding Management for Study & Internship Mobility Abroad**
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bourseetudes.inter@univ-littoral.fr**Sophie TERRIER**

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international@univ-littoral.fr

1 place de l'Yser, BP 71022
59375 Dunkerque Cedex 1

4 . D I S C O V E R U L C O

Administrative Office Hours - Dunkirk

Public reception hours:

Monday: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Wednesday: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Central Services – Jules Roy Building 1,

Place de l'Yser – BP 71022 59375

DUNKERQUE Cedex 01 Phone: +33 (0)3

28 23 73 28

Administrative Office Hours - Boulogne-sur-Mer

Public reception hours:

Wednesday and Thursday:

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

(Closed on Friday afternoons)

Saint-Louis University Centre 1

21 rue Saint-Louis – BP 774, 62321

Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.

Telephone: +33 (0)3 21 99 41 40

Administrative Office Hours - Calais

Public reception hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM / 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM / 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

50 Ferdinand Buisson Street – BP

699 Office 001 – Ground Floor

62228 CALAIS Cedex

Become an ambassador for global relations.

Additional information will be available shortly.

4 . D I S C O V E R U L C O

Living on Campus**Student ID card**

This smart card makes daily life easier across ULCO campuses. It is shared by universities and schools throughout the region and offers several practical features:

- Pay for meals at any CROUS restaurant or cafeteria
- Borrow books and materials from university libraries
- Access certain ULCO buildings
- Pay for photocopies in the libraries

To use your card for payments in university restaurants, you first need to activate your IZLY account.



After your enrollment is complete, an activation email will be sent to your university email address only. Once your IZLY account is activated, you can top up your digital wallet online or via your smartphone using a credit card, bank account, account-to-account transfer, or even a payment from someone else through your personal IZLY space.

The Library (ULCO)

The ULCO Library Network (BULCO) offers access to more than 150,000 documents across four locations and provides a wide range of services:

- A vast collection of textbooks, reference works, journals, DVDs, maps, as well as movies, comics, and novels
- Free-access computers and tablets (available with your student ID card)
- Group study rooms and Wi-Fi access
- With your multi-service card (CMS), you can borrow up to 10 books or journals and 3 DVDs for two weeks, with one renewal possible via your online reader account on maBULCO
- Thousands of online resources are available both on campus and remotely after logging in through the BULCO website



AT BULCO

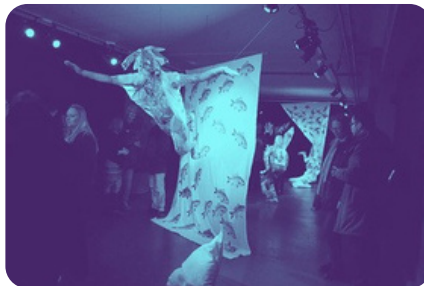
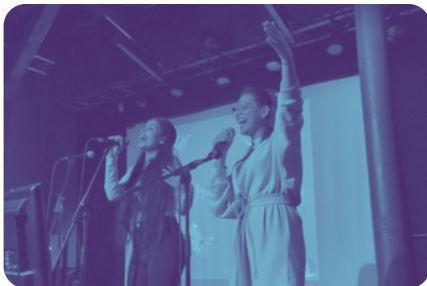
4 . DISCOVER ULCO

Cultural and Sports Activities

ULCO offers a wide range of sports and physical activities for all levels—from recreational to competitive. Through SUAPS (the University Service for Physical and Sports Activities), you can integrate sports into your academic experience.

**Culture**

ULCO also provides a rich and diverse cultural program throughout the year, coordinated by the Cultural Affairs Office (SCC), which operates in various locations: Student Centers (Maisons de l'Étudiant – MDE) & University Libraries



The BULCO Cultural Activities team encourages you to expand your cultural horizons by engaging in events held throughout the year, including screenings, readings, exhibitions, conferences, and workshops. A diverse range of activities is available, and all of them are free.

Student Centers (Maisons de l'étudiant – MDE)

The MDEs offer a space for cultural activities, relaxation, and student engagement.

You'll find:

- Administrative services (career advising, social workers, etc.)
- Offices for student associations
- Performance spaces and student cafés

These centers are lively places where you can express yourself, meet others, and fully engage in campus life.



4 . DISCOVER ULCO

Student Life & Associations

Student life at ULCO is rich and diverse. Many student associations bring the campus to life by organizing concerts, performances, theater productions, and much more.



Associations

Student Life & Disability Support Office (BVEH)

Because student life goes beyond the classroom, the Student Life and Disability Support Office (BVEH) is here to support you in all aspects outside of academics.

This office focuses on:

- Campus life and student engagement
- Promoting student involvement
- Support for students with disabilities (including accommodations)



Student Life & Disability Support Office (BVEH)

You can find a list of student associations through the BVEH. Additionally, local city halls in the main towns of the Côte d'Opale also maintain directories of associations by area of interest.

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER

DUNKERQUE

CALAIS

SAINT-OMER

Student Health Services

ULCO provides free health services for all students, including:

- Preventive medical check-ups and nurse consultations
- Emergency contraception and sexual health services
- Disability support (study or exam accommodations)
- General health screenings, vaccinations
- Support specifically for international students



Schedule an appointment on Doctolib

Psychological Support

Initial consultation and guidance with the psychologist, available by appointment: In Boulogne-sur-Mer and Calais, visit the website <https://apsytude.com/fr/prendre-rendez-vous/>

In Dunkirk and Saint-Omer, please reach out to psychologue-dk-so@univ-littoral.fr via email.

Social Services

At each of the four university campuses, a contact from the social services is accessible to you. Upholding professional confidentiality, social workers will greet you and provide guidance in the event of personal, medical, administrative, financial, or other challenges.

4 . DISCOVER ULCO

Disability Support

Students with disabilities can benefit from various academic and exam accommodations, such as:

- Access to lecture notes
- Adapted exam rooms depending on the nature of the disability
- Peer or staff assistance tailored to individual needs
- Access to specific tools and learning aids during classes and exams to help compensate for the disability
- Extended exam time

Click here to get more information : handicap.etudiants@univ-littoral.fr

ULCO IS COMMITTED !

If you are a student who has experienced discrimination, harassment, or sexual and gender-based violence, we are here to listen to you!



Report it –
We're here to help

The University's Digital Environment

ULCO provides a unified digital environment where you can access all the tools and services you need in one place.



Log in

Give you access to:

- Your university email account
- Your class schedule
- The Moodle platform for collaborative work
- University documents and resources
- Wi-Fi networks such as Eduroam / Eduspot
- ...and much more

4 . DISCOVER ULCO

Moodle

Moodle is the platform used by ULCO to support you throughout your studies.

You'll find:

- Course materials
- Documents shared by your instructors
- Assignments to submit
- Discussion forums Your grades and evaluations



Moodle

PodULCO

PodULCO is ULCO's video platform. It gives you access to:

- Recorded lectures
- Tutorials
- Conferences
- Other video-based learning resources



PodULCO



As a student at ULCO, you can connect to Wi-Fi across all campuses using your ENT login credentials. The eduroam network is also available, allowing you to stay connected when visiting partner universities in France or abroad.

Improve your foreign languages

The Language Resource Centre (CRL) offers both on-campus and online support to help you strengthen your language skills. You'll have access to digital resources on the CALAO platform (which should be explored each semester), as well as guidance from tutors, language assistants, and instructors throughout your studies.

French as foreign language (FLE) is one of the languages you can learn.

At ULCO, you can earn the Certificat de Compétences en Langues de l'Enseignement Supérieur (CLES) for free. This national certification validates your language proficiency in English, German, or Spanish at B1 or B2 level. It is integrated into the third year of undergraduate (L3) and second year of master's (M2) programs and is a valuable asset for your CV.

**FunMooc**

The FUN MOOC platform offers a variety of free online courses, including French language classes. These flexible courses let you learn at your own pace while exploring new topics of interest.



4 . D I S C O V E R U L C O

Support for Employment and Entrepreneurship**SUAIOIP**

The University's Career and Guidance Service (SUAIOIP – Service Universitaire d'Accueil, d'Information, d'Orientation et d'Insertion Professionnelle) is here to support you with everything related to career guidance, internships, and your professional development.

The team is available to help you with:

- Academic and career orientation
- Internship opportunities
- Transition into the job market

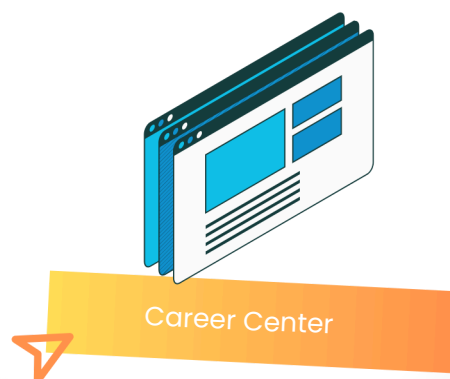


SUAIOIP

The ULCO Career Center.

A wide range of companies and job offers are available on the ULCO Career Center platform, where the university already partners with several employers.

To access it, sign up for free using your ULCO student email address (@etu.univ-littoral.fr) and create your profile. If you prefer. Once registered, you'll receive job and internship opportunities tailored to your profile – whether you're looking for a placement, a full-time job, a work-study program, or a student job.



Career Center

Littoral Entrepreneurship
Center (CEL)

The Centre Entrepreneuriat du Littoral (CEL) supports students who are curious about entrepreneurship – whether you're just exploring, developing an idea, or ready to launch a project. CEL connects you with key players in the startup ecosystem and helps guide your career path, whether through entrepreneurship or traditional employment.



4 . D I S C O V E R U L C O

And what comes next? Let's stay connected**France Alumni**

Join France Alumni to grow your professional network, explore new career opportunities, and stay connected with fellow international graduates who studied in France.



Global network for
international graduates

First Job Days (JPE)

ULCO and its students host the First Job Days (Journées du Premier Emploi – JPE), a key annual event to help you prepare for your career launch. The day begins with discussions and networking with former students, followed by mock interviews with over a hundred professionals. Nearly 600 soon-to-be graduates take part each year to put their applications to the test and gain valuable feedback.

Stay updated with all the latest university news through our social media channels.

